

Appl. No. 09/975,797
Amdt. dated February 28, 2005
Reply to Office action of December 29, 2004

REMARKS

Allowance of claims 1, 3-5, 10, and 11 is acknowledged.

Claim 12 is amended limit the brine density to 19 lb/gal, or more. Support for the amendment appears in the specification as filed at page 6, lines 13 et seq., (Example 3). The selection of additives includes ammonium salts. The claim is believed allowable over the references of record, Doty (US 4,728,446; WO 86/04634); Shin (US 4,784,778); Dadgar (US 4,784,779).

Doty ('446) is directed to brines having a density of 15 lb/gal, or less, (Col. 2, lines 36 – 43; Col. 5, line 6; Col. 6, line 43; Col. 7, line 35; Col. 7, line 64).

WO 86/04634 is directed to brine having a density from 15 to 20 lb/gal. However, the corrosion inhibitors there disclosed: thiocyanate, thiourea, and thioglycolate, (P. 10, lines 3 – 7) are not within the Markush group of additives claimed.

Shin ('778) discussed prior art uninhibited brines having a density as high as 20.1 lb/gal ('778, Col 4, lines 27 – 30 reference to US 4,304,677 at Col. 4, lines 54) and corrosion inhibited brine having a density up to 18.6 lb/gal ('778, Col. 4, lines 27 – 30 reference to 4,292,183 at Col. 3, lines 17 – 55) and inhibited brine having a density up to 18.0 lb/gal ('183, Col. 4, lines 65 – 68). (US 4,278,850 is also referenced at '778, Col. 4, lines 27 – 30, however that patent reference is apparently in error as it does not relate to brine.) Shin ('778) itself discloses corrosion inhibited brines having densities up to, 18.5 lb/gal. ('778, Col, 8, lines 10, 42; Col. 9, lines 3, 26, 44).

Dadgar ('779) discusses the aspiration of brine densities to 20.5 lb/gal (Col. 2, lines 62 – 65, Col., 3, lines 49 - 52). Exemplified brines are limited to corrosion inhibited brine having a density up to 18.5 lb/gal (Col. 6, line 43, Col. 9, lines 8 – 9). As corrosion inhibitors, the '779 reference does not disclose additives within the Markush group of claim 12.

For the reasons stated, amended claim 12 is believed to be novel over the art of record.

Claim 13 is amended to delete from the Markush group of additive compounds, azoles, and salts of azoles. This amendment is believed to render Claim 13, and Claims 15 and 22

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depending from Claim 13, novel and unobvious over the art of record, specifically US 5,846,450, to Atkinson.

New Claim 25 depends from amended Claim 12. Claim 25 does not include ammonium salts and enlarges the brine density to 11 pounds/gal (1.13kg/l). The exclusion of ammonium salts is believed to render claim 25 novel over the references Doty (US 4,728,446; WO 86/04634); Shin (US 4,784,778); Dadgar (US 4,784,779).

RELIEF REQUESTED

Claims 12, 13, stand amended by this communication. Claim 25 depends from Claim 12 and is new with this communication. Allowance of Claims 12, 13, 15 – 17, and 22 – 25 over the art of record is requested.

In the event that Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time or a payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefore and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0390, BAKER & DANIELS.

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Respectfully submitted,



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